



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

Office of Communications

300 Park Avenue, Suite 303 East
Falls Church, VA 22046

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Susan Finarelli or Amy Betor
703-248-5003 (TTY 711)

publicinfo@fallschurchva.gov

NEWS RELEASE

Falls Church City Council Withdraws Consideration of Pedestrian Plan *On-street Parking, Streetscapes, and Sidewalk Additions to be Reevaluated*

At its April 23 meeting, the Falls Church City Council withdrew consideration of the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Calming Strategic Implementation Plan to allow for changes to the plan and additional time for public input, review and approval. City staff will work with a Council liaison and the Pedestrian Plan Citizens Task Force modify the draft Plan with respect to proposed policies relating to on-street parking and other concerns raised during the public comment process. The Council made clear that the Pedestrian Plan should not include reductions to on-street parking.

The Council action was in response to input from City residents at several community meetings in recent weeks. Residents expressed strong concerns with aspects of the plan, including the possible future loss of on-street parking on residential streets, such as Hillwood Ave. and Lincoln Ave., in order to accommodate bike lanes and sidewalks. Residents also express concern about the role of property owners in the approval process for specific projects recommended in the Plan.

"Our residents offered genuine concerns about the impact the plan would have on such things as parking," said Mayor Nader Baroukh. "These issues must be addressed, therefore, I asked the City Manager to draft a motion to withdraw the draft plan and make clear that concerns raised needed to be addressed."

"It is important that the project go back to the drawing board and be responsive to the needs and desires of our citizens," said Vice Mayor David Snyder.

"The City staff and volunteer committee members are to be commended for their important work on this plan," said Councilmember Johannah Barry. "Citizens provided critical input at many junctures during the plan's development and none more so than in recent days. We will take the time necessary to get this right."

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The draft Pedestrian Plan contains proposed projects and policy changes designed to make walking and bicycling a safer and more viable alternative to automobile travel. The draft Pedestrian Plan recommends specific projects, such as new sidewalks, repairs to existing sidewalks, bicycle lanes and sharrows, and intersection improvements for pedestrian safety. The Plan also includes a Safe Routes to School program and sets goals for compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act for accessibility on City public rights of way.

The draft Pedestrian Plan is available on the City's website (www.fallschurchva.gov/pedplan), at the Mary Riley Styles Public Library (120 N. Virginia Ave.), and at the offices of Development Services in City Hall (300 Park Ave., Ste. 300 West). Comments may be sent to Wendy Block Sanford, Transportation Program Manager and Principal Planner, at wblocksanford@fallschurchva.gov.

The City Council scheduled June 25, 2012, to reconsider and possibly adopt the Plan with these changes. The Council may defer to a later date if the Plan is not ready for final adoption at that time.

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